REMARKS

In the Drawing, at Fig. 17 a diffractive grating 1405 is used with an individual laser 1402.

Applicants rely upon the filing date of U.S. Patent No. 5,727,880, of 18 March 1996 and upon Figs. 14, 15 and 16 therein which show multiple or plural lasers used as claimed. There is a corresponding description in the Specification at [0054] and [0055] and [0056]. The multiple lasers of Figs. 14, 15 and 16 are "directable" by virtue of being mounted on a common hand-held support and so are pointed or directed at a target surface. In Fig. 11 the laser is pivot mounted [0082]. Multiple lasers also are found in Fig. 5 in the specification at [0045] and [0074].

In the Specification as filed, attention is directed to use of a beam splitter (e.g., a diffraction grating) item 1405 in Fig. 17 to produce sub-division beams 1403a, including an axial beam 1406 to the target or field of view center, which provide a spot pattern on the target (see priority application No. 08/864,659 of 11 December 1996, now U.S. Patent 5,823,658). The diffraction grating can clearly be used with any laser beam whether the beam comes from a single laser or from any one or more multiple lasers as seen either in Fig. 5 or in Figs. 14-16.

Please note in the original specification at [0033] the provision of "a plurality of lasers" which corresponds to "multiple" lasers as in Fig. 5 and in Figs. 14, 15 and 16. In [0034] note a dedicated laser to each beam.

Also note in the original description of Fig. 5, "individual lasers" can be used for each beam. Thus the original specification and drawing show use of single and/or multiple lasers which are used optionally interchangeably with diffraction elements or as sources of un-modified laser beams (1034).

Claim 78 directs a beam to the center of the field of view as seen also in the priority claimed from the disclosure in the filings of 18 March 1996 and 11 December 1996. As just explained this can be a split or un-split beam and may arise from a single direct laser or from an optical splitter (1034).

The double patenting rejections are all met by the Terminal Disclaimers.

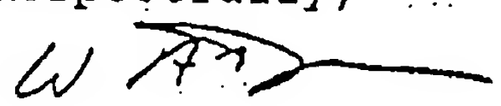
The rejection in paragraph 20 over HORIBA in view of DARRINGER is traversed. There is a need to increase the safe brightness of the DARRINGER product which uses only a single laser and can not be used at a high power beyond a safety limit which restricts brightness and working range. Multiple lasers solve the problem in a hand held product. However, HORIBA does not use a laser and does not encounter the safety or brightness at a distance problem. HORIBA is not hand held. There is in fact no relation between the two references because the problem solved by the invention is limited to laser devices and HORIBA will never meet or solve the problem by increasing the number of incandescent, or even collimated lamps.

The rejection of the claim in paragraph 21 is traversed over the German reference (not a patent) which has an effective date as reference of 1997. Applicants rely upon their filing in U.S.A. on 11 December 1996 from which priority is claimed. Rejection of claims 76 nd 77 at paragraph 22 is also traversed for the reasons above for paragraph 21. This same traverse applies to claim 81 in paragraph 23. The traverse also applies to paragraph 24 since none of the applied references use multiple lasers and can not address the safety problem of laser brightness at a distance, because HORIBA lacks the teaching of modified laser brightness.

The Examiner is requested to re-examine the application in view of this response and to advise further as to the specification and drawing. Please note the new claim 86.

Please charge all costs with respect to the Terminal Disclaimer or claims to Deposit Account 04-1675.

Respectfully,



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